AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the splicing of digital signals comprising at least two types of data packets: I and P packets of complete data and B packets of differential data, said method comprising the following steps:

- the reception of a first digital signal s1,
- the reception of a second digital signal s2,
- the reception of a splicing command Cc(T_0) indicating a real splicing instant T_0,
- the transmission of the first signal s1 before [[the]] a repositioned splicing instant T_1 ~~indicated by the splicing command Cc(T_0)~~, and
- the transmission of the second signal s2 after said repositioned splicing ~~indicated by the splicing command Cc(T_0)~~instant,

wherein the repositioned instant T_1 after which the transmission of the second signal s2 starts is chosen as to just precede [[with]] the I or P packets of complete data closest to the real splicing instant T_0 indicated by the splicing command Cc(T_0) in such a way that the reproduction of the second signal s2 starts with the reproduction of [[the]] said I or P packet of complete data.

2. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission of the first signal s1 ends with the transmission of the last I, P or B packet of data received before the start of the transmission of the second signal s2 in such a way that the reproduction of the first signal s1 ends with the reproduction of an I or P packet of complete data before the start of reproduction of the second signal s2.

3. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 1 wherein the transmission of the I or P complete data packets before the B differential data packets is configured in such a way that the reproduction of these I or P packets of complete data is done after the reproduction of these B packets of differential data.

4. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 2 wherein the transmission of the I or P complete data packets before the B differential data packets is configured in such a way that the reproduction of these I or P packets of complete data is done after the reproduction of these B packets of differential data.

5. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 2 wherein the transmission of the first signal s1 ends with the transmission of the last B packet of differential data received before the start of the transmission of the second signal s2 and preceding an I or P packet of complete data.

6. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 1 wherein the first and second signals s1 and s2 comprise several types of complete data packets, including at least one I packet of introductory complete data and at least one P packet of predicted complete data, and several B packets of differential data are assembled in a group of packets GOP comprising only one I packet of complete introductory data with which it starts, the group of packets enabling the P packets of predicted complete data and the B packets of differential data to be transmitted in an order different from that of their reproduction.

7. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 6 wherein the transmission of the second signal s2 starts with the I packet of introductory complete data closest to the instant T_0 indicated by the splicing command $Cc(T_0)$.

8. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 1 wherein the first signal s1 and the second signal s2 are video signals.

9. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 1 wherein the first signal s1 and the second signal s2 also comprise audio frames.

10. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 8 wherein the first signal s1 and the second signal s2 also comprise audio frames.

11. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 10, wherein the transmission of the second signal s2 starts with the audio frame configured to be reproduced with a picture constituted by the I packet of introductory complete data with which the transmission of the second signal s2 is started.

12. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 11, wherein the sending of the first signal s1 ends with:

- the last audio frame starting before the instant of the start of transmission of the second signal s2 if the time interval between the start of transmission of this audio frame and the start of transmission of the second signal s2 is greater than or equal to the duration of an audio frame,
- or, if not, the second last audio frame starting before the instant of the start of transmission of the second signal s2.

13. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 9, comprising:

- during the transmission of the first signal s1, the transmission of the drift $\Delta 1$ of the clock h1 of the first signal s1,
- during the transmission of the second signal s2, the transmission of the drift $\Delta 2$ of the clock h2 of the second signal s2.

14. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 12, comprising:

- during the transmission of the first signal s1, the transmission of the drift $\Delta 1$ of the clock h1 of the first signal s1,
- during the transmission of the second signal s2, the transmission of the drift $\Delta 2$ of the clock h2 of the second signal s2.

15. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 1 wherein the digital signals are MPEG-encoded, comprising groups of packets constituted by groups of pictures (GOP), the packets of complete data constituted by the I and P pictures, the packets of differential data constituted by the B pictures, and audio frames.

16. (Previously Presented) A splicing method according to claim 1, comprising the watermarking of the splicing command $Cc(T_0)$ in the first signal s1, wherein the reception of the splicing command comprises the reading of this splicing command $Cc(T_0)$ watermarked in the first signal s1*.

17. (Previously Presented) Splicer implementing a splicing method according to any of the claims 1 to 16, comprising:

- a first input for the reception of the first signal s1,
- a second input for the reception of the second signal s2,
- an output for the transmission of the resulting signal formed by the first signal s1 before the splicing indicated by the splicing command $Cc(T_0)$ and the second signal s2 after the splicing indicated by the splicing command $Cc(T_0)$.

18. (Previously Presented) A splicer according to claim 16, comprising a watermark reader connected to the first input.

19 - 20 (Cancelled)